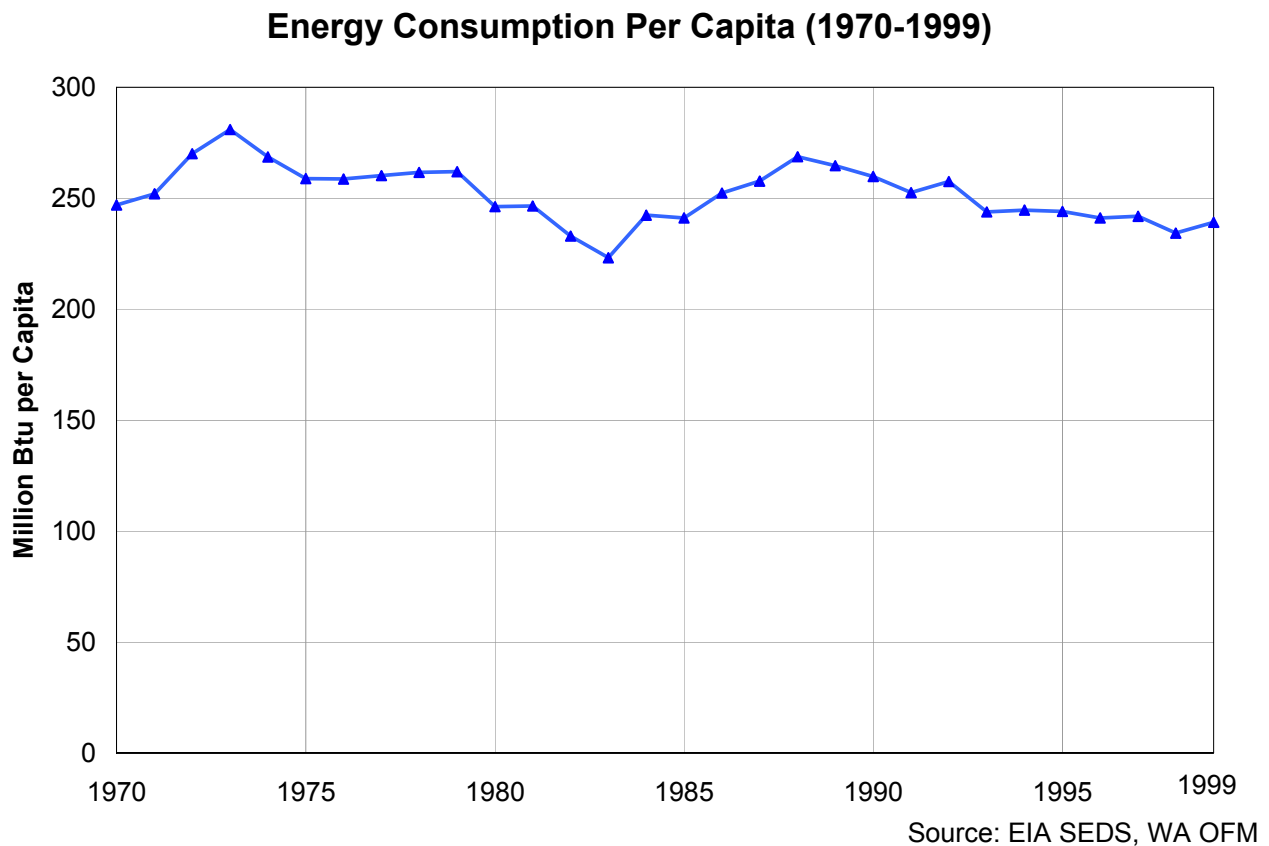


## 6. Washington's Energy Intensity — Energy Consumption per Capita



***ENERGY CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA IS SIMILAR TODAY TO LEVELS IN 1970. EXCEPT AT THE DEPTHS OF THE EARLY-1980S RECESSION, ENERGY CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA IN WASHINGTON HAS STAYED RELATIVELY CONSTANT.***

Another way to look at Washington's energy intensity is energy consumption per capita. While the previous indicator demonstrated that Washington continues to create more wealth per unit of energy, here the story is somewhat different. Washington's per capita energy consumption in 1999 was 242 million Btu. That's the energy equivalent of about 2000 gallons of gasoline per person, and is similar to the figure for 1970. Energy consumption per capita declined 20%

between 1973 and 1983, to a low of 223 million Btu per person in 1983. This was followed by a period of growth in per capita energy use. Most of the increase occurred in transportation fuels, as communities began to sprawl and Washingtonians drove more and more miles per year. Per capita energy consumption was relatively flat through the 1990s as growth in energy consumption matched increases in population.